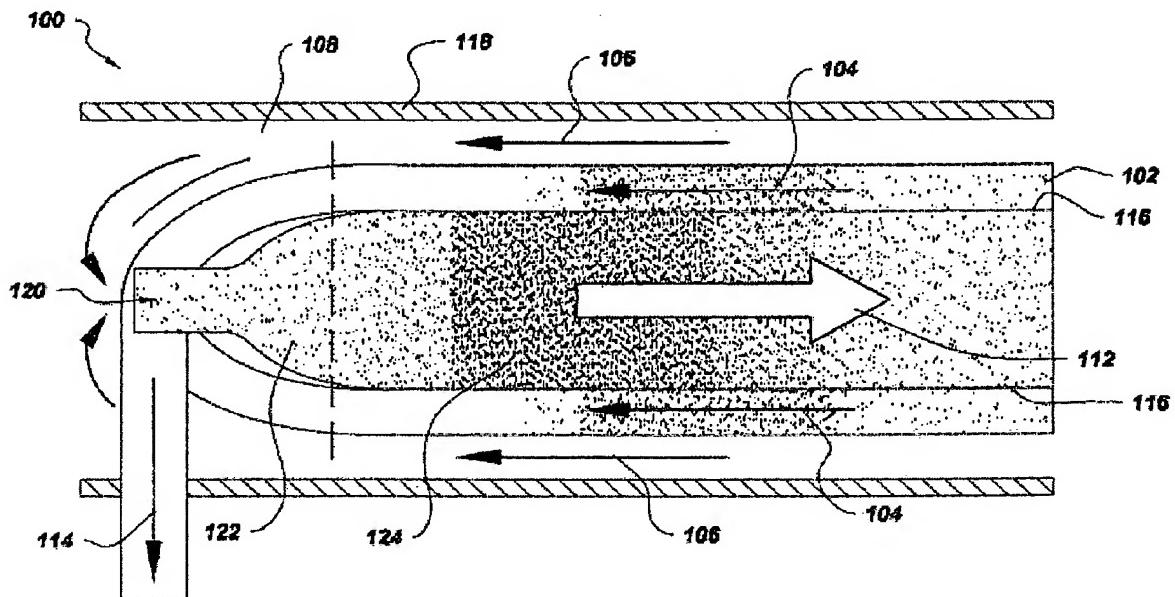


REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated September 21, 2009 wherein claims 1 - 7, and 9 - 22 were rejected. By this paper, claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 18, 20, 21, and 22 are amended for clarification of certain features to expedite allowance of the present application. In view of the following remarks, Applicants request further examination and reconsideration of the present patent application.

Claim amendments

Independent claims 1, 15, 20, 21 and 22 are hereby amended to clarify the structural aspects of the system. Specifically, the claim element "wherein said combustor is in fluid isolation with respect to said reformer" has been deleted and, element "said reformer and said combustor are separated by a wall configured to avoid material transfer through said wall" has been introduced. This clarifies the constructional aspects of the system illustrated Fig. 6, reproduced below and portions of paragraph 41 also reproduced herewith for easy reference.



The reforming process takes place in a tube 102, which tube is in intimate contact with the combustor 110, wherein the reformer 102 and the combustor 110 are concentric. The compressed air flows through the annular space 108 in the pressure shell as indicated by the airflow 106. The air enters the combustor 110 through the entry port 120. The fuel, such as hydrogen, natural gas or an off gas is also sent to the combustor

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110 at the same location (not shown). The mixing of the air and fuel is achieved in the mixing zone 122. The combustion zone 124 primarily generates the heat of the combustion that is dissipated radially and axially through the surface 116, which surface is in contact with the reformer 102...The reformat, which typically comprises CO₂, CO, H₂, water and unburned fuel exits the reformer 102 through an opening 114.

Thus, the reformer exits through opening 114 flow of combusted stream 112 are quite separate. The highlighted text clearly shows that only the heat is dissipated across the wall 116 from the combustor to the reformer.

Dependent claims 6 and 18 are amended to correct the Markush language and claim 10 is amended to clarify the steam turbine feature clearly

Thus the amendments do not add any new matter.

35 USC 112

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1 - 7, and 9 – 22 under 35 USC §112 first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In the Advisory action dated September 21, 2009, the Examiner mentioned that - The Original disclosure fails to teach the reformer in fluid isolation with respect to the combustor.

By the present amendment, the term "fluid isolation" has been replaced by claim element "said reformer and said combustor are separated by a wall configured to avoid material transfer through said wall." This brings in more clarity to claim language commensurate with the figure and the specifications. It also allows for the possibility of some of the hydrogen from the reformer being used in the combustor as recited in claim 36 and rightly pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of the aforesaid amendment, the Applicants submit that the currently amended claims do comply with the written description requirement of 35 USC §112 first paragraph. Hence, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of aforesaid rejections.

The Examiner had stated in the Final Office Action on June 10th 2009, that the claims 1-7 and 9-22 may contain allowable subject matter if the 112 rejections are overcome.

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Applicants believe that aforesaid amendments, place the claims in a position to overcome the 112 rejections and hence the Applicants request the allowance of claims 1-7 and 9 – 22.

Summary

For the reasons set out above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are, therefore, respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly asked to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patrick K. Patnode/
Patrick K. Patnode
Reg. No. 40,121

General Electric Company
One Research Circle
Building K1, Room 3A54A
Niskayuna, New York 12309
Telephone: (518) 387- 6783
January 8th, 2010